



Boston Connects, Incorporated
Boston Empowerment Zone
2201 Washington Street

BOARD MINUTES
May 25, 2004

Members Present: Robert Kinney-*Vice President*, Gloria Coney-*Clerk*, Joelee Baker Bey, Ralph Cooper , Michael Glavin, Betty Greene, Elizabeth Miranda, Valarie Pruitt, Frederick Umeh and Roberta Williams.

Members Absent: Judy Flashner, Mike Foley, Charlotte Golar Richie, George Greenidge, Mark Maloney, Lila Reid, Jayne Talbot and Juanita Wade.

BCI Staff: Shirley Carrington and Sherry O'Brien

Ex-Officio: Senator Diane Wilkerson

Guests: Philip Tucker , Hampton Inn, Reginald Nunnally DND

In Mr. Greenidge's absence, Mr. Kinney called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Introductions were made.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Discussion ensued as follows: Mr. Baker-Bey requested that the word "approximately" be removed from the motion on the Summer Jobs Program. Ms. Coney, Clerk responded that the language in votes previously taken cannot be changed after the vote language is approved and suggested that Board members make sure that the language in the vote is accurate and appropriate at the time the vote is taken. Mr. Baker Bey questioned the appropriateness of Mr. Greenidge making a motion at the last Board meeting based on his understanding of Robert's Rules that Officers cannot make a motion. The Board ratified the vote as follows:

Motion: To reserve \$100,000 in Boston Connects, Inc. funds to support the process which will:

1. Clearly articulate the niche/vision for Boston Connects, Inc. for the next three to five years.
2. Provide the Boston Connects, Inc. Board with the tools to support the implementation of the vision, including but not limited to, fund raising.
3. Market Boston Connects, Inc. to the community, foundations and corporations.

This investment will be offset by funds from foundations and businesses.

By: Mr. Baker-Bey Second: Ms. Coney



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

2201 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02119 ■ Phone 617-541-2670 ■ Fax 617-427-0747
A 501(c)3 Not-For-Profit Community Organization in Partnership with the City of Boston

Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

Motion: Approval of the April 27, 2004 Business Meeting subject to the following changes: Mrs. Greene was recuperating at the Boston Medical Center; Recommendation that the motions made be "tape" recorded.

By: Mr. Umeh Second: Ms. Williams

Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

2. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Kinney reported that Mr. Greenidge was out of town and unable to attend the meeting, but would encourage the Board to participate in available Board training and Visioning sessions. He reported that four members participated in Board training offered at the Management Consulting Services, and found them to be worthwhile. Mr. Greenidge will keep the Board informed of upcoming workshops and trainings being offered.

3. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Carrington stated that Ms. Araujo was unable to attend due to her daughter's illness. She announced that there will be an Open House and Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the Hampton Inn at Crosstown on June 30, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. Board members and Ex-Officio's will receive invitations. Ms. Carrington also mentioned the Katsiroubas Brothers ribbon cutting event occurred last week and thanked those Board members that attended.

Ms. Carrington reviewed the proposed Board vote for the 2004 Board elections. Senator Wilkerson suggested that the Board consider changing the date since November 6 falls four days after the Presidential Election. After discussion and review of the by-laws, the Board decided that November 13, 2004 would be the preferred date for the 2004 election.

Motion: 2004 Boston Connects Inc., Board elections will occur as follows:
Saturday, November 13, 2004 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

District	Polling Place	Address
1 Academy/Egleston Sq.	Walnut Park Apt./Roundhouse	1900 Columbus Ave.
5 Old Colony, South Boston	M.E.McCormack Senior Center	350 Old Colony Ave.
6 Franklin Hill	Endicott School	Blue Hill Ave.
11 Roxbury/St. Patrick's	Vine St. Comm. Center	339 Dudley St.

The pre-election Community Education Program will commence prior to August 27, 2004. Certification of Qualified Candidates will occur at the September 28th, 2004 Board meeting. BCI staff will confirm voting sites.

By: Mr. Baker-Bey Second: Mrs. Greene

Recused: 0 Abstained: 0 Opposed: 0

Motion: Carried

Ms. Carrington presented the vote pertaining to the allocation of \$100,000 to support the visioning/marketing process. Discussed ensued regarding the wording of this vote, specifically the meaning of the last sentence in the vote. Ms. Carrington and Mr. Kinney explained that the sentence meant that as funds were raised from foundations and businesses, the Governance/Operations Reserve Fund would be reimbursed.



Motion: To reserve \$100,000 in Boston Connects, Inc. funds to support the process which will:

1. Clearly articulate the niche/vision for Boston Connects, Inc. for the next three to five years, including an assessment of partners who made commitments to participate in the initial application to HUD.
2. Provide the Boston Connects, Inc. Board with the tools to support the implementation of the vision, including but not limited to, fund raising.
3. Market Boston Connects, Inc. to the community, foundations and corporations.
4. Pay Consultant Fees as follows: Strategic Planning, Public Relations/Marketing, Event Planning.
5. Sponsor three publicity events/community meetings for Zone residents, businesses, and the community that supports them such as: a kickoff event for BCI new strategic visioning plan, summer youth kick-off and celebrations, annual community dinner with non-profits and residents.

Toward this end, Boston Connects, Inc. proposes a budget as follows

\$ 50,000	Consultant Fees as follows: Strategic Planning, Public Relations/Marketing, Event Planning
\$ 10,000	Board Training to include Board roles and responsibilities, and fund raising
\$ 15,000	Three publicity events/community meetings.
\$ 15,000	Marketing costs to target Zone residents and the community (businesses and companies and nonprofits) that serves them
\$ 10,000	Support costs to include travel, food, visits to other sites with zone residents and Board members.

Funding is proposed as follows:

\$ 3,000	From Goal H1 (b)	Board Training
\$ 7,000	From Goal H2	Marketing
\$90,000	From the 10% Governance/Operations Reserve Fund	

By: Mrs. Greene

Second: Mr. Baker-Bey

Recused: 0

Abstained:0

Opposed:0

Motion: Carried

4. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Health and Well Being

Ms. Miranda, Chair reported that on May 18th, she, Mr. Baker-Bey and Ms. Williams met with the 2004 Summer Youth Program providers (ABCD, Boston PIC and City of Boston Office for Children Youth and Families). The meeting provided an opportunity for summer program providers to: plan for a successful and enriching job experience for youth; and to discuss how to avoid some of the problems (which included youth not getting paid on time or in some cases not at all, incomplete application packages, and families not knowing where to get an application).

In response to a query on how the teens would know where to pick up an application, Ms. Miranda stated that each provider markets their program and are continuing recruitment. Ms. Carrington distributed a copy of the Banner article on BCI's summer funding of EZ youth. Youth should be referred to one of the three organizations. Providers will assist each other to fill their seats by sharing names of youth not yet hired to insure that all seats are



filled. The Board reached consensus that the programs would be monitored every two weeks. Mr. Baker-Bey thanked Ms. Miranda for her work. (Board applause) Ms. Carrington circulated binders containing the Summer program information and the financial literacy curriculum used by programs funded last year, as requested at the last Board meeting.

Ms. Miranda stated that plans were progressing for a Youth Employment Summer event to market BCI. This event will inform the community that BCI is the agency providing the summer employment funds. Mr. Kinney referred to the letter in the Board package to Governor Romney asking the Governor to consider using some of the unexpected state income to match BCI's commitment to Boston summer youth employment.

Ms. Miranda added that the Health and Well Being committee has set aside funds for a Fatherhood Initiative and Child Care Quality Improvement Grants. More information regarding these two programs will be forthcoming.

B. Ex-Offender Initiative.

Mr. Kinney referred to the information in the Board packages regarding the Ex-Offender Initiative and self employment opportunities for former prisoners, included with the Board packages. Mr. Kinney stated the plans for a joint meeting with the Economic Development Committee to examine ways to fund business opportunities for ex-offenders.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Tucker, General Manager from the Hampton Inn at Crosstown spoke regarding the permanent jobs. He stated that the process of hiring EZ residents began with a Job Fair in January 2004, co-sponsored by Boston Connects, Inc., where approximately 90 residents expressed an interest in working for Hampton Inn. 18 of 37 positions (47%) have been filled by EZ residents. 71% of the hotel management staff are minorities. Area minority businesses such as New World Security, Jet A Way, Swift Express and Royal Catering have been contracted to provide specific services for the hotel.

In response to questions on the challenges the hotel faced in hiring Zone residents, Mr. Tucker stated that residents have poor interview skills and failure to appear for certain tests including drug screening. As of June 1, he will be located in the hotel. The hotel opening is scheduled for June 18, 2004. He encouraged the Board to visit the hotel.

Senator Wilkerson mentioned the recent passing of Mr. Pat Cusick who for several years, served on the Community Advisory Board and the Board of Directors of the Enhanced Enterprise Community. It is fitting that BCI recognize the commitment and dedication of Mr. Cusick to this organization and the residents of the Empowerment Zone.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

A true record attest:



Thomas M. Menino, Mayor
City of Boston

Gloria Coney, Clerk

Date

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